

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 IO-13 AID-05 ACDA-07 /097 W
-----072230 131113Z /23

R 130841Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3107
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, MO, LY, SS, SREF
SUBJ: QADHAFI WOOS MOROCCAN OPPOSITION DELEGATIONS

1. NEARLY ALL OPPOSITION PAPERS HAVE CARRIED ACCOUNTS IN RECENT DAYS OF REMARKS WHICH PRESIDENT QADHAFI MADE DURING A TWO HOUR MEETING WITH MOROCCAN OPPOSITION DELEGATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 1. ALL OF MOROCCO'S MAJOR PARTIES HAD SENT DELEGATIONS TO LIBYAN NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS IN RESPONSE TO LIBYAN INVITATIONS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE VARIOUS ACCOUNTS, QADHAFI SAID:
-- LIBYA WAS NEUTRAL ON THE SAHARA. IT WANTED TO SERVE AS A "COMMON DENOMINATOR" BETWEEN THE PARTIES.
-- LIBYA GAVE ARMS TO POLISARIO IN 1972 WHEN THE STRUGGLE WAS AGAINST SPAIN, BUT REFUSED TO HELP ALGERIA PROVIDE ARMS SUBSEQUENT TO THE MADRID ACCORD. IT ALSO REFUSED TO ARM MAURITANIA SO AS NOT TO CONTRIBUTE TO ARABS KILLING ARABS.
-- LIBYA WAS GIVING HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE TINDOUF REFUGEES
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AND HAD SENT A WOMEN'S DELEGATION TO WORK THERE, BUT THIS DID NOT IMPLY SUPPORT FOR ONE PARTY OVER THE OTHER. THERE WERE 1,000 SAHARAN CHILDREN IN LIBYA, PLUS SOME HOMELESS WOMEN.
-- HE WAS AGAINST THE CREATION OF SMALL NATIONAL ENTITIES, BECAUSE LIBYA WAS FOR UNION.
-- HE HAD AN INVITATION TO VISIT MOROCCO, BUT COULD NOT RESPOND UNTIL BLOODSHED OVER THE SAHARA STOPPED. ALGERIA ALSO WANTED

HIM TO VISIT, BUT HE WOULDN'T GO FOR THE SAME REASON.

3. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS PROMINENTLY CARRIED A COMPOSITE OF THE OPPOSITION PRESS ACCOUNTS WITHOUT COMMENT. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THE OPPOSITION PRESS HAS BEEN CAUTIOUSLY POSITIVE ABOUT QADHAFI'S REMARKS. IN REALITY, HOWEVER, FEW MOROCCANS BELIEVE THAT QADHAFI HAS SEEN THE LIGHT OR THAT HIS INITIATIVE REPRESENTS ANYTHING BUT THE LATEST MOVE IN THE NEAR RITUAL WHICH CHARACTERIZES THE UNEASY RELATIONS BETWEEN THESE TWO DIVERSE ARAB REGIMES (FOR PRIVATE, OFFICIAL COMMENT, SEE RABAT 5038). THE GAME SEEMS TO CONSIST OF EACH PARTY ATTEMPTING TO LIMIT THE COMMITMENT OF THE OTHER TO ITS PRIMARY ADVERSARY(IES). WHILE MOST MOROCCANS REALIZE THAT QADHAFI IS PLAYING TO THEIR OVERRIDING SAHARA PREOCCUPATION, THEY ARE NEVERTHELESS WILLING TO WELCOME ANYTHING SOUNDING POSITIVE COMING FROM TRIPOLI. IT IS A GAME THAT ONLY ARABS SEEM TO FULLY UNDERSTAND. ANDERSON

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